



## Families of U.S. hostages in Gaza plead with Americans: Don't forget your fellow citizens

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Jonathan Dekel-Chen dreams of the moment when his abducted 35-year-old son, Sagui, is reunited with his wife and three young children, including a daughter born two months after the devastating attack on Israel that initiated the war. Ruby Chen longs to recover the remains of his 19-year-old son, Itay — a soldier who Israeli intelligence says was killed in the Oct. 7 attack — so that he can be buried and his “soul” finally given “a place to rest” in accordance with Jewish practices. For many Americans, the Israeli-Hamas war is seen through the daily reports of Israeli ground incursions and airstrikes in Gaza and warnings of a looming famine. There are college campuses riven by protests and great uncertainty over cease-fire prospects. But the families of the Americans taken hostage are laser-focused on one thing: their loved ones.

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Families of Americans being held hostage in Gaza by Hamas walk into the Justice Department for a meeting with Attorney General Merrick Garland, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in Washington.

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# Families of U.S. hostages in Gaza plead with Americans: Don't forget your fellow citizens

Continued from Front

They fear that with all the tumult of the war, Americans often forget about their fellow citizens who remain missing. They're doing whatever they can to make sure they aren't forgotten and to keep pushing to get them -- or their remains -- back home.

"For most of us, we are doers. So we wake up in the morning and we say, what are we doing today? What's on the agenda?" said Ronen Neutra, whose son, Omer, a soldier, was among those taken. "What can I do to make sure that my son will come back home today?"

The families were in Washington this week for meetings with U.S. government officials, including national security adviser Jake Sullivan and Attorney General Merrick Garland, whose Justice Department is investigating the deaths and kidnapping of Americans at the hands of Hamas. The meetings came at a sensitive time as the Biden administration endeavors to get Israel and Hamas to commit to a cease-fire deal to end the eight-month-old war. Speaking as a group Wednesday to The Associated Press, the families recounted their shared sadness, angst and uncertainty but also their hopes for a resolution that would result in the release of scores of hostages, including their loved ones. Eight Americans are believed to be held by Hamas, including three who were killed.

The three-part proposal announced on May 31 by President Joe Biden calls for a "full and complete cease-fire," a withdrawal of Israeli forces from densely populated areas of Gaza and the release of hostages — first, women, the elderly and the wounded and later, all remaining captives, including male soldiers like Neutra, who was ambushed and pulled from a tank on Oct. 7.

"The only way they are going to emerge alive from these tunnels is through some sort of negotiated agreement with the devil, which is Hamas," said Dekel-Chen, whose son



Families of Americans being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza, from left, Jonathan Dekel-Chan, Ruby Chen, Ronen Neutra and Orna Neutra, are interviewed by the Associated Press, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

was kidnapped while protecting his kibbutz, Nir Oz, which endured a disproportionate toll of murders and hostage-taking by Hamas.

"Hamas clearly has to be forced to or coerced to enter negotiations and complete them," he said, and must decide whether it's about "perpetual warfare and perpetual suffering of its own people" or about "some better future." The Israeli government, for its part, must "stay the course" and "put aside any kind of narrow political interests" for the good of the country, he said.

That won't necessarily be easy, given the possibility that a cease-fire deal would shatter Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition and make him more vulnerable to a conviction in his corruption trial.

Netanyahu says he is committed to bringing the hostages home, but also says he won't end the war without destroying Hamas. He and hard-liners in his coalition fear a full Israeli withdrawal before reaching this goal could allow Hamas to claim victory and recon-

stitute itself.

The meetings with American officials were the latest in a series of sit-downs that began last fall, shortly after the Hamas attack in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250 hostages.

The resulting Israeli assault on Gaza has displaced most of the territory's population and killed over 36,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians. Israel has drawn global criticism, with a U.N. court ordering Israel to halt its offensive in the southern city of Rafah, while American universities from Columbia to Stanford have been convulsed by protests.

In Israel, thousands have protested the government, criticizing Netanyahu over his approach to the war and demanding he do more to bring back the roughly 80 hostages believed to be alive, along with the remains of 43 pronounced dead. Many hostage families have been at the forefront of the protest

movement.

The American hostage families were measured in discussing the Israeli government's approach, placing the onus more on Hamas.

And they say the warm embrace they have received from U.S. officials exposes a disconnect with the general American public, which they consider to be more apathetic to their plight and ignorant of the fact that so many hostages remain in captivity.

"I think there's also a lack of knowledge," Chen said. "I think the majority of the U.S. people are not aware that on October 7th, this was also an attack on the United States." Compounding the sadness eight months into the war is a steady drip of somber Israeli government announcements of additional hostage fatalities — most recently on Monday, when the military declared four hostages who'd been kidnapped on Oct. 7 as now dead. Adding to the pain, the four men had been seen alive in videos released by Hamas, meaning they died in captivity, possibly from Israeli fire.

Chen spent months hoping his son, an NBA-loving soldier in the Israel Defense Forces, was alive only to learn earlier this year that he had been killed.

"He was taken hostage even though he was killed. Who does that? Savages. Who takes dead people as bargaining chips?" he said.

Andrea Weinstein received similar news after the Israeli government in late December disclosed the deaths of her sister, Judy — previously thought to be among the living hostages — and her husband, Gad Haggai. Weinstein, a teacher with a creative spirit who used puppets to help students find their voices, was on a morning walk with her husband when the attack unfolded, her sister said.

Their bodies remain in Gaza. Optimistic feelings come in cycles for Omer Neutra's mother, Orna, who said she could not have imagined eight months ago that the family would still be in the same position. She is hopeful but also guarded. "October 6, it was a different life," she said. "Nothing is the same for us." □



# Migrants are rattled and unsure as deportations begin under new rule halting asylum

By **VALERIE GONZALEZ and ELLIOT SPAGAT**

**Associated Press**

**DULZURA, Calif. (AP)** — Abigail Castillo was about to cross the U.S. border illegally when she heard President Joe Biden was halting asylum. She continued anyway, walking hours through the mountains east of San Diego with her toddler son, hoping it wasn't too late. "I heard that they were going to do it or were about to do it," Castillo, 35, said Wednesday as she and her son were escorted to a Border Patrol van with about two dozen others from Brazil, Ecuador and her village in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, which she said she left because it was gripped by violence.

They had missed the deadline, and were now subject to the new deportation rule. Her sense of uncertainty prevailed among many migrants after Biden invoked presidential powers to stop asylum processing when arrests for illegal crossings top 2,500 in a day. The measure took effect at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Wednesday.



**Border Patrol agents talk with migrants seeking asylum as they prepare them for transportation to be processed, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, near Dulzura, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

day because that threshold was met.

Two senior Homeland Security Department officials confirmed the first deportations under the new rule took place Wednesday, though they did not say how many were deported. The officials briefed reporters on condition their names not be used in keeping with regulations.

Sergio Franco, who clutched his baby girl after a nearly two-month journey from Ecuador with his family, walking through the perilous Darien jungle on the border between Colombia and Panama, said he was confident that he would prevail in his plea to find a safe haven in the United States.

"If we have evidence, there shouldn't be a problem," he said as he got into the van with Castillo and the others.

As the group was driven away, several migrants from India walked up to the same dusty area near a gun club in the town of Dulzura, one of several that

have popped up over the last year in the remote rural outskirts of San Diego for migrants to surrender to Border Patrol agents. There was no water or restrooms and little shade.

Several Guatemalan women arrived later. Among them was Arelis Alonzo Lopez, who said she was nearly five months pregnant and had walked for two nights. A Border Patrol agent asked how she felt. "I can't take any more," she answered.

Asylum remains suspended until average daily arrests fall below 1,500 for a week straight. The last month that crossings were that low for that long was in July 2020, during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Migrants who express fear for their safety if they are deported will be screened by U.S. asylum officers but under a higher standard than what's currently in place. If they pass, they can remain to pursue other forms of humanitarian protection, including those laid out in the U.N. Convention Against Torture. □

# U.S. antitrust enforcers will investigate leading AI companies Microsoft, Nvidia and OpenAI

By **MATT O'BRIEN**

**AP Technology Writer**

U.S. antitrust enforcers have decided to investigate the roles Microsoft, Nvidia and OpenAI have played in the artificial intelligence boom, according to people familiar with the pending actions.

The Department of Justice will launch an investigation of chipmaker Nvidia, while the Federal Trade Commission will scrutinize close business partners Microsoft and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, according to two people who were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigations and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Nvidia and OpenAI de-

clined to comment Thursday. Microsoft didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The New York Times was first to report Thursday on a deal between antitrust regulators at the two agencies.

Emboldened by President Joe Biden's push for tougher scrutiny of Big Tech's business practices, federal officials have signaled for more than a year that they've been watching out for monopolistic behavior in the rapidly advancing industry of chatbots and other generative AI products that can produce human-like text, imagery and sound.

Lina Khan, chair of the FTC, said in January that the

agency would scrutinize deals that "enable dominant firms to exert undue influence or gain privileged access in ways that could undermine fair competition."

The FTC said at the time it was opening an inquiry into the relationships between leading artificial intelligence startups such as OpenAI and Anthropic and cloud computing providers such as Amazon, Google and Microsoft that have invested billions of dollars into them.

Microsoft's relationship with OpenAI has been particularly close, supplying the smaller San Francisco company with the vast computing resources needed to train generative AI systems

like ChatGPT.

The entire AI industry has also relied heavily on Nvidia's specialized semiconductors to power AI applications. Demand for its AI

chips has led Nvidia's stock to soar, surpassing \$3 trillion in market value Wednesday and making it one of the most valuable companies in the S&P 500. □



**The Federal Trade Commission building is seen, Jan. 28, 2015, in Washington.**

**Associated Press**



# Trump ally Steve Bannon must surrender to prison by July 1 to start contempt sentence, judge says

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, must report to prison by July 1 to serve his four-month sentence for defying a subpoena from the House committee that investigated the U.S. Capitol insurrection, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols in Washington granted the Justice Department's request to make Bannon begin his prison term after a federal appeals court panel last month upheld his contempt of Congress conviction.

Bannon is expected to seek a stay of the judge's order, which could delay his surrender date.

"I've got great lawyers, and we're going to go all the way to the Supreme Court if we have to," Bannon told reporters outside the courthouse. He added: "There's not a prison built or jail built that will ever shut me up."

In a social media post Thursday, Trump accused prosecutors of being "desperate" to jail Bannon. Trump repeated his claim that Republicans are being persecuted by a politically motivated justice



Steve Bannon appears in court in New York, Jan. 12, 2023.

system rhetoric that has escalated in the wake of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's conviction last week on 34 felony charges in his New York hush money trial.

Nichols, the judge who ordered Bannon to report to prison, was nominated to the bench by Trump in 2018.

Bannon was convicted nearly two years ago of two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition with

the Jan. 6 House Committee and the other for refusing to provide documents related to his involvement in Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Nichols had initially allowed him to remain free while he fought his conviction because the judge believed the case raised substantial legal questions. But during a hearing in Washington's federal court, Nichols said the calculus changed af-

ter the appeals court panel said all of Bannon's challenges lack merit.

"I do not believe the original basis for my stay exists any longer," Nichols said. Bannon can appeal his conviction to the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. Prosecutor John Crabb told the judge it was "very unlikely" Bannon would succeed in getting his conviction thrown out. Bannon's lawyer at trial argued that the former

adviser didn't ignore the subpoena but was still engaged in good-faith negotiations with the congressional committee when he was charged.

The defense has said Bannon had been acting on the advice of his attorney at the time, who told him that the subpoena was invalid because the committee would not allow a Trump lawyer in the room and that Bannon could not determine what documents or testimony he could provide because Trump has asserted executive privilege.

Defense lawyer David Schoen told the judge it would be unfair to send Bannon to prison now because he would complete his entire sentence before he exhausted his appeals. Schoen said the case raises "serious constitutional issues" that need to be examined by the Supreme Court.

"In this country, we don't send anyone to prison if they believe that they were doing something that complied with the law," he told reporters.

A second Trump aide, trade adviser Peter Navarro, was also convicted of contempt of Congress. □

## The Census Bureau failed to adequately monitor advertising contracts for 2020 census, watchdog says



The briefcase of a census taker is seen as she knocks on the door of a residence, Aug. 11, 2020, in Winter Park, Fla.

**Associated Press**

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**  
**Associated Press**

The U.S. Census Bureau didn't properly administer or monitor contract orders worth hundreds of millions of dollars dealing with advertising to promote participation in the 2020 census, possibly wasting taxpayers' dollars, according to the Office of Inspector General.

Bureau contracting officers failed to make sure standards were followed to measure the performance of contractors and didn't receive supporting documentation for paid media

invoices totaling \$363 million, according to an audit report released last month by the watchdog agency. "As a result, the bureau could have accepted substandard performance, potentially wasting millions of taxpayer dollars on advertising that did not fully meet program goals and reach intended audiences," the report said.

The inspector general's audit focused on \$436.5 million worth of contract orders for paid advertising promoting participation in the once-a-decade head count that determines political power

and the allocation of \$2.8 trillion in federal funding in the U.S.

One example was an order in May 2020 to spend \$2.2 million on flyers placed on pizza boxes that promoted filling out the census questionnaire online during the early days of stay-at-home orders issued because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bureau couldn't provide supporting documentation showing that the flyers had been delivered in ZIP codes where the intended audience lived, the audit report said. □



## Attention: Detour

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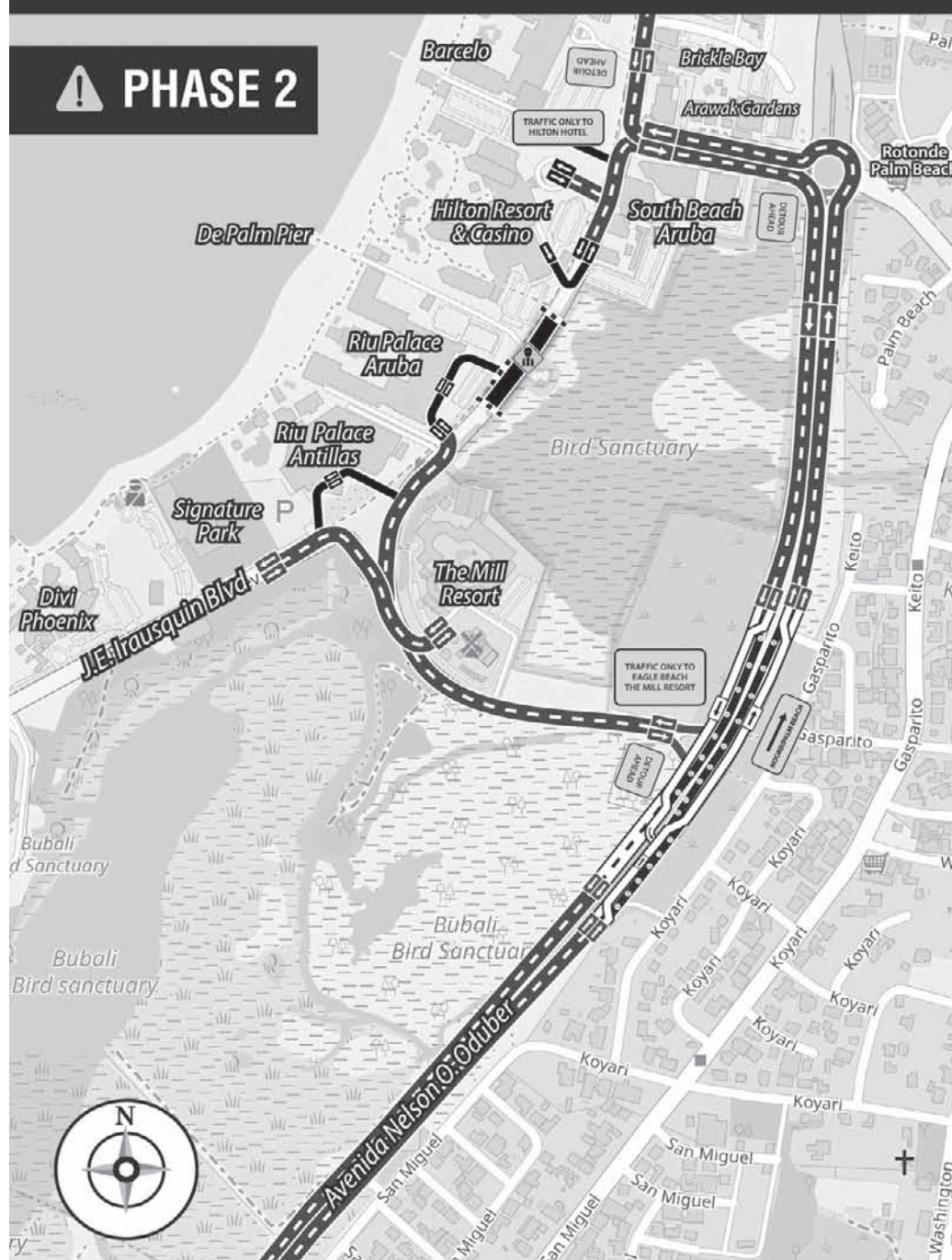


On Monday, June 10th, 2024, the road reconstruction project at High Rise Hotels: Phase 2 will commence. Phase 2 involves the area in front of Riu Palace Aruba.

The project will be executed in four different phases, and Phase 2 will last for 7 weeks.

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# Spain applies to join South Africa's case at top UN court accusing Israel of genocide

By **JOSEPH WILSON**

**Associated Press**

**BARCELONA, Spain (AP)** —

Spain became on Thursday the first European country to ask a United Nations court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza.

South Africa filed its case with the International Court of Justice late last year. It alleged that Israel was breaching the genocide convention in its military assault that has laid waste to large swaths of Gaza.

The court has ordered Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah but stopped short of ordering a cease-fire for the enclave. Israel has not complied and shows no sign of doing so.

"There should be no doubt that Spain will remain on the right side of history," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said after his foreign minister made the announcement.

Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Libya and the Palestinians are waiting for the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, to grant approval to their requests to join the case. Israel denies it is commit-



**Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares Bueno addresses a media conference prior to talks on the Middle East in Brussels, on May 27, 2024.**

ting genocide in its military operation to crush Hamas triggered by its deadly Oct. 7 attacks in southern Israel. Hamas killed 1,200 people and took 250 more hostage in the surprise attacks. Israel's air and land attacks have since killed 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians.

"We take the decision because of the ongoing mili-

tary operation in Gaza," Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said in Madrid. "We want peace to return to Gaza and the Middle East, and for that to happen we must all support the court."

Once admitted to the case, Spain would be able to make written submissions and speak at public hearings.

Spain's request is the latest move by Sánchez's left-wing

coalition to support peace-making efforts in Gaza.

Spain, Ireland and Norway formally recognized a Palestinian state on May 28 in a coordinated effort by the three Western European nations. Slovenia, a European Union member along with Spain and Ireland, followed suit and recognized the Palestinian state this week.

Over 140 countries have recognized a Palestinian state more than two-thirds

of the U.N. but none of the major Western powers, including the United States, has done so.

While Sánchez has condemned the attacks by Hamas and joined demands for the return of the remaining Israeli hostages, he has not shied away from the diplomatic backlash from Israel. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said that by recognizing a Palestinian state, Sánchez's government was "being complicit in inciting genocide against Jews and war crimes."

Sánchez's backing of the Palestinians is generally supported in Spain, where some university students have followed their American counterparts in protesting on campuses. Spaniards will vote in elections for the European Parliament elections on Sunday.

Last year, the International Court of Justice allowed 32 countries, including Spain, to join Ukraine's case alleging that Russia breached the genocide convention by falsely accusing Ukraine of committing genocide in its eastern Luhansk and Donetsk regions, and using that as a pretext for the invasion. □

# Tokyo City Hall is developing a dating app to encourage marriage and childbirth

By **YURI KAGEYAMA**

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Called "Tokyo Futari Story," the city hall's new initiative is just

that: An effort to create couples, "futari," in a country where it is increasingly common to be "hitori," or alone.



**The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office building soars in Tokyo, on June 15, 2016.**

**Associated Press**

While a site offering counsel and general information for potential lovebirds is online, a dating app is also in development. City hall hopes to offer it later this year, accessible through phone or web, a city official said Thursday.

Details were still undecided. City Hall declined to comment on Japanese media reports that said the app will require a confirmation of identity, such as a driver's license, your tax records to prove income and a signed form that says you are ready to get married. Marriage is on the decline in Japan as the country's birth rate fell to an all-time low, according to health

ministry data Wednesday. Last year there were 474,717 marriages, down from 504,930 in 2022 while births totaled 727,277, down from 770,759.

The reports also said the app may ask for your height, job and education but the official denied anything was decided.

On the national level, the government has been trying to solve a serious labor shortage by promising cash payments for families with children and supporting child-care facilities. It's also relaxed immigration policy over the years to encourage an influx of foreign workers.

During the so-called "baby

boom" era of the 1970s, Japan recorded more than 2 million births a year. Like many young adults around the world today, fewer Japanese are interested in old-style marriage or having children.

There are concerns that Japanese workplace norms tend to lead to extremely long hours and rarely meeting people outside work. Some say raising children is expensive.

Tokyo City Hall is also sponsoring events where singles can meet, couples can get counseling on marriage and where lovers can have their stories of how they first met turned into manga comics or songs. □



## A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were



the only means of transportation." Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30

kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron


attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □








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## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names

of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

**Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:**

Candelchi actually refers to

the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as Holocentrus adscensionis.



Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present

and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

### In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

## Aruba to me



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## Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum

speed—is on the right lane.

### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already



on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes.

The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





## Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

**Many years ago, Cha\* Tiger did not live in the mondi\*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.**

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for

him to say such things. "You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense." "I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei\*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger

ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth



what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria\* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch. Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

**Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.**

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi





## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



**SAN NICOLAS—** At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than

anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and

renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair,



San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

## Best spots to view the sunset

**(Oranjestad)—Today we celebrate Valentine's Day, and what can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.**

### California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily acces-

sible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

### Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either

Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!\*

### Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light



House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

### Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and

reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

### Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell... □





# CROSSWORD

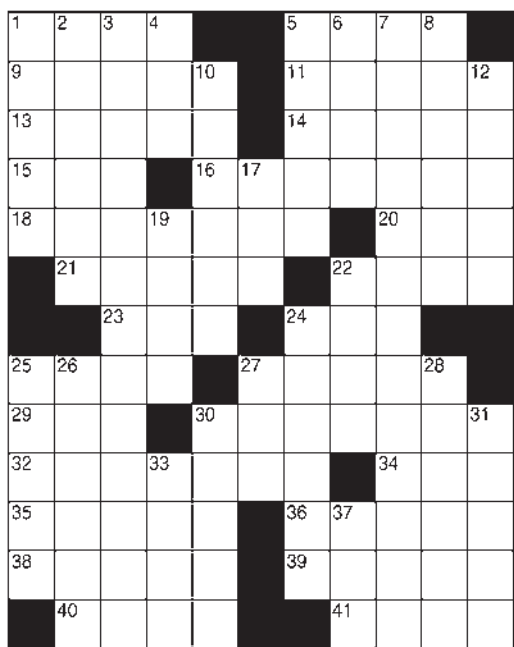
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Serving resort
  - 5 Omar of "House" look
  - 9 Sun Valley claims setting
  - 11 Fathers growth
  - 13 Strep of "Sophie's Choice"
  - 14 Brief job
  - 15 Have something
  - 16 Impractical sort
  - 18 Applies quickly, as brakes
  - 20 Serving feat
  - 21 Golfer Sam
  - 22 Use one's incisors
  - 23 Frost relative
  - 24 Wine choice
  - 25 Captivated
  - 27 Crime doers, in slang
  - 29 Pitching stat
  - 30 Did the walls
  - 32 The going rate?
  - 34 Smelter supply
  - 35 Track horse

- DOWN**
- 1 What x some-times means
  - 2 Paragons
  - 3 Completely
  - 4 Bashful
  - 5 German steel city
  - 6 Falafel holder
  - 7 Strait-laced
  - 8 Iroquois people
  - 10 Adage
  - 12 Scatter
  - 17 Retina part
  - 19 Get together
  - 22 "Som-mersby" star
  - 24 Undo, in a way
  - 25 Harvests command
  - 26 Singer Grande
  - 27 Hole number
  - 28 Calm
  - 30 Fend off
  - 31 Tightly packed
  - 33 Sense
  - 37 Canine

BEDS MARES  
UBOAT IRENE  
ROWDY RIDGE  
NON ROADMAP  
SKYCAP ERE  
ONES ADD  
FINN TOTE  
PUN YARD  
ANT KIDNAP  
STOP GAP ALL  
TITHE EMOTE  
EMAIL SAMOA  
DELLS GIST

Yesterday's answer



6-7

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

J RWSJTI BZ BUGRVKEIG. JL

J'C RBEQ RWVR JR KVZ'R UI

QBZI. RWIZ J AHGW WVSQIS.

— JGGV SVI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FREELY WE SERVE, BECAUSE WE FREELY LOVE, AS IN OUR WILL TO LOVE OR NOT; IN THIS WE STAND OR FALL.  
— JOHN MILTON

## Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	NORWEGIAN JADE	10.00	20.00	C	1
THU	06	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	11	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	B	1
		ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	15.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
TUE	25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7



# Scientists have traced the origin of the modern horse to a lineage that emerged 4,200 years ago



A herder sits with his horse on an open plain in Inner Mongolia, China, July 2019.

Associated Press

By CHRISTINA LARSON  
AP Science Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The horse transformed human history and now scientists have a clearer idea of when humans began to transform the horse. Around 4,200 years ago, one particular lineage of horse quickly became dominant across Eurasia, suggesting that's when humans started to spread domesticated horses around the world, according to research published Thursday in the journal Nature.

There was something special about this horse: It had a genetic mutation that changed the shape of its back, likely making it easier to ride. "In the past, you had many different lineages of horses," said Pablo Librado, an evolutionary biologist at the Spanish National Research Council in Barcelona and co-author of the new study. That genetic diversity was evident in ancient DNA samples the researchers analyzed from archaeological sites

across Eurasia dating back to 50,000 years ago. But their analysis of 475 ancient horse genomes showed a notable change around 4,200 years ago. That's when a specific lineage that first arose in what's known as the Pontic-Caspian Steppe, a plains region that stretches

from what is now north-eastern Bulgaria across Ukraine and through southern Russia, began to pop up all across Eurasia and quickly replaced other lineages. Within three hundred years, the horses in Spain were similar to those in Russia.

"We saw this genetic type spreading almost everywhere in Eurasia — clearly this horse type that was local became global very fast," said co-author Ludovic Orlando, a molecular archaeologist at the Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse in France.

The researchers believe that this change was because a Bronze Age people called the Sintashta had domesticated their local horse and begun to use these animals to help them dramatically expand their territory. □



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Sta. Anna : Tel. 586 8181

#### San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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## Dakota Fanning finds a character she is drawn to in Ishana Night Shyamalan's 'The Watchers'

By KRYSTA FAURIA  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — It can sometimes be difficult for child actors to shed public conceptions of them as a kid, hindering them from being taken seriously in Hollywood as adults.

But at 30, Dakota Fanning is feeling better than ever about her creative voice and agency.

"At this point in my life, I feel very settled in like who I am and what I want and what I don't want and what I like and what I don't like," she said while promoting her latest film, "The Watchers," which hits theaters Friday.

That's not to say Fanning didn't receive critical acclaim almost as soon as her career began. She is, after all, the youngest person to receive a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination she was 7 at the time in the show's nearly 30-year history for her performance in "I Am Sam."

But in the more than two decades since that 2001 breakout role, Fanning has learned a lot about the nature of the business and



Dakota Fanning, left, and Ishana Night Shyamalan pose for a portrait to promote "The Watchers," Thursday, May 23, 2024, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

how to achieve both success and satisfaction in it, something that inspired her to start a production company with her sister and fellow actor, Elle Fanning.

"Being an actor for so long, you are reliant on other people to want you to be in their movie, to pick you, to believe in you," she said of their decision to launch

Lewellen Pictures.

"Eventually you're like, 'Well, I just kind of want to make that happen for myself.'"

Fanning has made a lot happen for herself, including earning a degree from New York University despite working consistently since the age of 5. While in school, she studied the

portrayal of women in film something she says she has always been interested in, especially when it comes to female characters who aren't necessarily "likable." "People are people and make mistakes and don't always do the right thing. And I think sometimes people can be afraid to portray female characters in

their totality with the messy parts too," she said. "I'm always interested in exploring that and not being afraid to play a character that's not I mean, I don't even know what likable means. Who's likable?"

The realness of Fanning's character in "The Watchers" is part of what drew her to the role, something she and director Ishana Night Shyamalan bonded over. Based on A. M. Shine's novel of the same name, the film is a kind of psychological horror fantasy which tells the story of Mina (Fanning), a free-thinking young artist who gets trapped with a group of strangers in an Irish forest full of mysterious creatures.

"There was a relatability to the character that I was playing that we both could really understand," Fanning said.

"Being a woman in your 20s and figuring things out." As the daughter of M. Night Shyamalan who produced the film it's no surprise that both directing and horror are in Ishana Night Shyamalan's blood. □

## Dolly Parton plans for a musical on her life using her songs to land on Broadway in 2026

By MARK KENNEDY  
AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Broadway has had great success with "Hello, Dolly." Now get ready for "Hello, I'm Dolly." Dolly Parton is writing new songs to go along with some of her past hits and co-writing a stage story inspired by her life for a stage musical that she hopes to land on Broadway in 2026.

"I've written many original songs for the show and included all your favorites in it as well. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll clap, you'll stomp, it truly is a Grand Ol' Opera. Pun and fun intended," she said in a statement.

Parton will team up with Maria S. Schlatter on the story. Schlatter won an Emmy for producing Netflix's

"Christmas on the Square," which starred Christine Baranski.

"Hello, I'm Dolly" is the name of Parton's debut album released in 1967, which had the songs "Dumb Blonde"

and "Something Fishy."

Parton went on to become a national treasure, starring in movies, writing books, earning Grammys, becoming the first country artist to be named MusiCares Per-



Dolly Parton is seen during CMA Fest on Thursday June 6, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

son of the Year and donating \$1 million for coronavirus research.

With 52 Grammy nominations and 11 wins, she is the second-most nominated woman in Grammy history, only behind Beyoncé, who has 79 nods and 24 wins. The country icon earned the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award a decade ago. Parton will have plenty of past hits to choose from, including her three Top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 "9 to 5," "Here You Come Again" and "Islands in the Stream." She also has 25 No. 1 Hot Country songs like "Yellow Roses," "Think About Love," "Tennessee Homesick Blues" and "Jolene."

This won't be the first time Parton's music will be heard

on Broadway. A stage version of "9 to 5" landed in 2009 starring Stephanie J. Block, Megan Hilty and Allison Janney, and the 1993 Christmas special "Candles, Snow & Mistletoe" contained her song "With Bells On."

Parton's show will be the latest musician bio on Broadway using their songs, joining such recent artists as Neil Diamond, Alicia Keys, Michael Jackson, Carole King and Gloria and Emilio Estefan. She will join such pop and rock luminaries as Elton John, Cyndi Lauper, The Go-Gos, Sting, Alanis Morissette, Dave Stewart, Edie Brickell, Trey Anastasio, David Byrne and Fatboy Slim and Bono and The Edge with Broadway scores. □



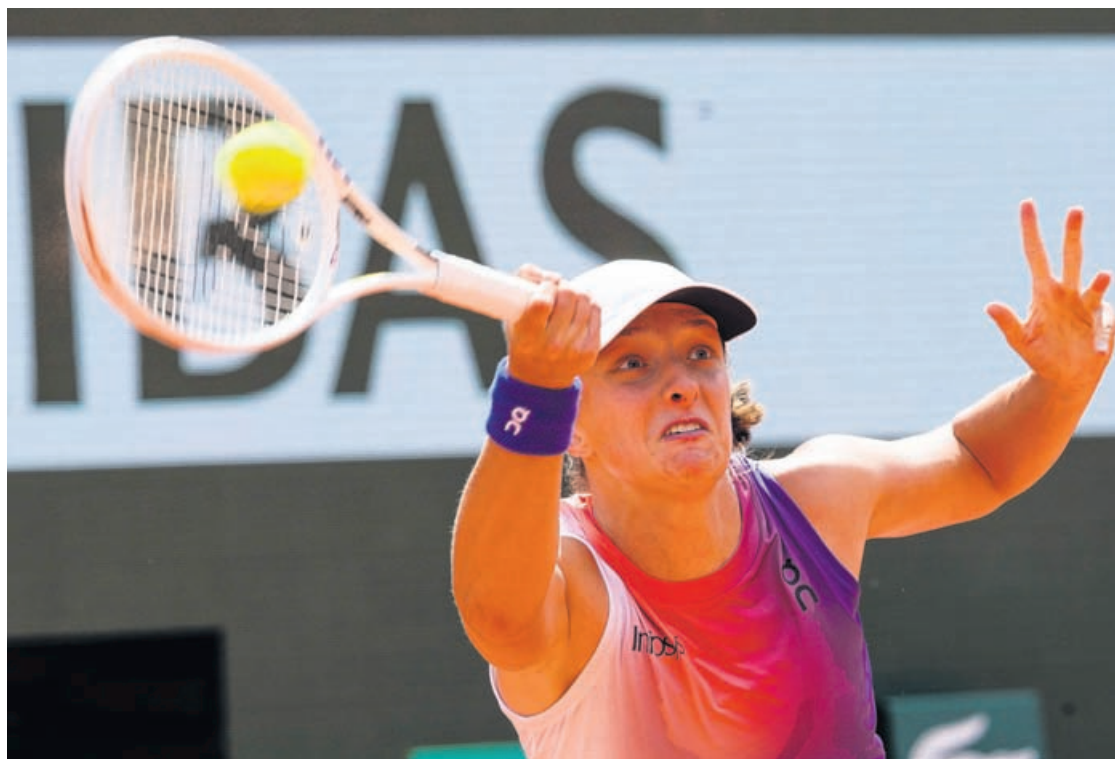
# Iga Swiatek defeats Coco Gauff at the French Open and will face Jasmine Paolini in the final

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — Iga Swiatek is as good as it gets in tennis at the moment, especially at the French Open. Been that way for quite some time. So her unyielding success against Coco Gauff just about everywhere and certainly at Roland Garros should come as no surprise by now.

Swiatek continued her mastery over Gauff and extended her winning streak in Paris to 20 matches with a 6-2, 6-4 victory in the semifinals on Thursday.

"For sure, it was intense," said the No. 1-ranked Swiatek, who claimed five of the last six games after trailing 3-1 in the second set. "I'm happy that I just was consistent with my tactics and didn't overthink stuff and just went for it at the end." In Saturday's title match, Swiatek will face No. 12 Jasmine Paolini of Italy, a 6-3, 6-1 winner against unseeded 17-year-old Mirra Andreieva of Russia in the second semifinal. Swiatek is trying to earn her fourth championship in five years at the French Open and can become the first woman with three in a row since Justine Henin from



Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a shot against Coco Gauff of the U.S. during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, June 6, 2024.  
Associated Press

2005-07. For Paolini, this will be her first Grand Slam final; she never even had made it past the second round in any of her initial 16 appearances at majors until getting to the fourth round at the Australian Open in January. Swiatek improved to 11-1 overall against No. 3 seed Gauff, the reigning U.S. Open champion. That is more victories than Swiatek

has accumulated against any other player and includes head-to-head wins at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament three years in a row, including in the 2022 final and last year's quarterfinals. "She is progressing a lot. You can see by her results. Last year's U.S. Open, for sure, showed that she's tough. At this age, it's kind of obvious that she's going

to just grow. So it's nice to see her handling well everything around her, because it's not easy," said Swiatek, who turned 23 last week. "I'm sure we're going to have plenty more really intense matches on the really highest level." As far as Gauff is concerned, perhaps a different opponent would be preferable. Swiatek, who is 4-0 in ma-

for finals, has been at her dominant best for most of the past month, following up on titles at clay events in Rome and Madrid.

Putting aside a three-set, second-round victory over four-time major champion Naomi Osaka, when she was forced to save a match point, Swiatek has ceded a total of merely 17 games in her other five matches in Paris.

Displaying her usual brand of powerful-but-clean groundstrokes, Swiatek needed only 10 winners to advance on Thursday, in part because she made only 14 unforced errors while Gauff finished with 39. This is what Swiatek does to whoever is across the net, particularly on clay: With defense and precision, she makes them hit so many shots that eventually the mistakes are bound to come.

There was a similar dynamic in the other semifinal. The key statistics were these: Paolini saved all six break points she faced, and she made just 10 unforced errors to Andreieva's 29.

"I was nervous in the first set," Paolini said, "but ball after ball, I was getting relaxed." □

## Opening arguments starting in class-action lawsuit against NFL by 'Sunday Ticket' subscribers

By **JOE REEDY**  
AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Opening arguments were expected to begin Thursday in federal court in a class-action lawsuit filed by "Sunday Ticket" subscribers claiming the NFL broke antitrust laws.

The lawsuit was filed in 2015 and has withstood numerous challenges, including a dismissal that was overturned.

The suit says the NFL broke antitrust laws when it allowed DirecTV to exclusively sell the "Sunday Ticket" package of out-of-market Sunday afternoon games airing on CBS and Fox at

what it says was an inflated price and restricted competition.

DirecTV was the home of "NFL Sunday Ticket" from 1994 until 2022. YouTube will be in the second season this year of a seven-year deal after agreeing to the rights in December 2022.

The NFL will contend that "Sunday Ticket" is an add-on package for the league's most-devoted and out-of-town fans, along with stating that all games for local teams are available on broadcast networks.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, a

longtime member of the league's broadcast committee, are expected to testify in the case that could last up to three weeks.

The hearing could bring to light how much YouTube is paying the NFL for "Sunday Ticket" and if it is making money. There also could be documents filed and not redacted that would show how much networks spend to produce an NFL game.

This is one of the rare times the NFL has had a high-profile case go to court where league financial matters would become public without settling. In 2021, it settled with St. Louis, St. Louis

County and the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority

for \$790 million over the relocation of the Rams to Los Angeles. □



The NFL logo is seen during the NFL Super Bowl 58 football game Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Las Vegas.  
Associated Press





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## Belmont at Saratoga means shortening the 3rd Triple Crown race, but most are OK with that

By **SPENCER RIPCHIK**  
Associated Press

**SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.**

**(AP)** — The Belmont Stakes is the final test of the Triple Crown the third resume booster to edge a horse into the history books. It's not an easy feat.

The third leg is the longest of the three races at 1½ miles and requires a horse with endurance to handle it. There have been 36 Triple Crown-eligible horses heading into the Belmont, and only 13 have secured the third jewel.

This year, with it happening at Saratoga Race Course instead of Belmont Park, the shape of the track makes it implausible to run it at 1½ miles, so it's being shortened to 1¼ miles the same distance as the Kentucky Derby. It's a change but not one that retired jockey and Fox Sports racing analyst Richard Migliore

believes deserves an asterisk for the winner.

"It takes nothing away from the event whatsoever," Mi-

gliore said. "It's an American classic race that's tough to win. Winning races at the Grade I level, at any

distance, whether it's 5 furlongs or 2 miles, is extremely tough."

Changing the distance is

nothing new for the Belmont, which has been run at various lengths since the first edition in 1867. Going 1½ miles has been a mainstay since 1927, though it was shortened to 1¼ miles in 2020 when it led off the out-of-order Triple Crown because of the pandemic. This year, it's just a quarter-of-a-mile change, but it has been a major factor in the horses' entry for the stakes. Derby winner Mystik Dan is set to run in the Belmont, but trainer Kenny McPeck said he probably would not have run him at the traditional distance.

"I'd rather it be a mile and a quarter than a mile and a half," McPeck said. "I could see not taking him down to Belmont and running him at a mile and a half."

The 9-5 opening favorite Sierra Leone was a nose behind Mystik Dan in the Kentucky Derby. □



A horse works out ahead of the 156th running of the Belmont Stakes horse race at Saratoga Race Course, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Associated Press